This is in reply to RM-11306 reply comments filed by the ARRL on February 21, 2006

The ARRL attempts to make the case that rules should be eliminated and replaced with "voluntary" bandplans (presumably ARRL bandplans), but it is presumptuous for the ARRL to expect the whole radio amateur world to accept and follow any bandplan prepared by themselves, especially one removing the restrictions on where automatically controlled digital stations with an emitted bandwidth over 500 Hz may operate, for several reasons:

1. The ARRL represents only about 20% of the FCC-licensed radio amateurs.

2. The ARRL has a VESTED, CONFLICTING, INTEREST in the promotion of bandplans favoring where automatically controlled digital stations over 500 Hz in bandwidth may operate, such as those used by Winlink, BECAUSE THE ARRL HAS PUBLICLY ADOPTED THE WINLINK NETWORK FOR THEIR OWN NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM AND AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE ACTIVITIES.

3. All known and forecast automatically controlled digital

station activities can operate effectively in only 10 kHz of spectrum on each amateur band, simply through reasonable SHARING of frequencies, like everyone else does, yet the ARRL requests legal access to ALL HF frequencies, at a time when interference to COMMUNICATIONS by automatically controlled digital stations is at a historic high. They would not make such a request IF THEY DID NOT PLAN TO UTILIZE ALL HF FREQUENCIES FOR THEIR AUTOMATICALLY CONTROLLED DIGITAL STATION NETWORK ACTIVITIES.

4. The mere fact that ARRL, in RM-11306, intentionally disregarded all IARU Region 1 bandplan restrictions on where automatically controlled digital stations were allowed to operate is in itself sufficient evidence that ARRL does not even intend to observe current bandplan requirements in producing one of their own, and obviously holds the needs of radio amateurs in other parts of the world in contempt.

5. The ARRL suggests that a station under local or remote control will try to avoid interference, but this flies in the face of the fact that automatically controlled digital stations DO routinely disrupt ongoing communications, using their automatic nature to dominate any frequency, already in use, of their choosing, by brute force. If allowed to enter the segments of the bands used by phone stations, the

automatically controlled digital station can easily run a phone station off the frequency, not only by nature of their automatic persistence, but because the energy density of their emitted digital signal is three times (on the average), as great as the analog SSB voice signal.

The ARRL attempts to establish that achieving high data rates for data transfer on HF is not only desirable, but actually possible, but the highest-performing data mode used on HF today is Pactor-III, which in actual practice on the Winlink network (adopted by ARRL) for radio Email, only achieves a transfer rate of about 18 characters per second in actual practice (on the average), compared to a maximum rate of 225 characters per second on a wired circuit where is no fading or interference problems to slow down the transfer. I.e. IT HAS YET TO BE PROVEN THAT ERROR-FREE, "HIGH-SPEED", DATA TRANSFER ON HF IS EVEN POSSIBLE, yet the ARRL currently petitions for a complete rewrite of the regulations on the mere PRESUMPTION that it is possible, and petitions to restrict traditional mode activities to make more spectrum available for something that has never been accomplished! The STA license provides ample opportunity for proving the viability of any new mode, and the benefit thereof, before regulations restricting all other activities are implemented.

In addition, ARRL wishes to use this relatively slow digital mode for their own purposes, and wants Part 97.221(c) deleted to allow it to be used anywhere phone is used, when Pactor-III is less than twice as fast as the Pactor-II mode (which achieves a data transfer rate of about 10 characters per second in actual practice on HF), but requires only one fifth the bandwidth of Pactor-III. Given the scarcity of HF spectrum for communications today, it is totally irresponsible for the ARRL (claiming to speak on behalf of all radio amateurs) to be requesting rule changes to allow them to use such a bandwidth-inefficient mode as Pactor-III when a slightly slower mode, requiring only one fifth as much bandwidth, is sufficient for Email transfers, which are not time-critical by their very nature.

ARRL states, "There is no present incompatibility between semi-automatic data operation and incumbent analog emissions modes, due to the adherence of most amateurs to voluntary band plans." Adherence to voluntary band plans, which even the ARRL/Winlink consortium does not currently do regarding ARRL bandplans, HAS NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO with "incompatibility" between digital modes used for data operation and incumbent analog emissions modes. The incompatibility arises because a digital mode cannot

communicate with an analog mode, just as an analog mode cannot communicate with a digital mode, and they must, IN ORDER TO SHARE FREQUENCIES AS MANDATED BY THE REGULATIONS. If a digital mode accidentally starts transmitting on top of an ongoing analog communication, there is no known way for the operator of the analog mode to request the operator of the digital mode to select an alternate frequency, because the two "speak different languages". This has not been the case in the past when CW was the only "digital" mode in use, because CW is received AUDIBLY and analog phone is also received AUDIBLY, and one operator could understand the other. Incompatible modes, such as RTTY and phone, were separated by rule, not only by bandplan. Now that ARRL has a CONFLICTING INTEREST in Winlink, they cannot not be trusted to produce any bandplan that does not favor their own special interests, as their bandplan submitted as part of RM-11306 clearly demonstrates. Phone operations have always been separated from digital operations by rule, and removal of those rules will guarantee intrusion of Email robots into the areas used by phone operators for communications.

Email robots use pre-published frequencies, whereas, except for nets with many members using single frequencies, those communicating with other persons (i.e. instead of just using the amateur bands for "Email answering machines)" do not use

pre-published frequencies and generally seek clear frequencies for communications. They also tend to group with others using the same mode, since their PURPOSE is COMMUNICATIONS WITH EACH OTHER, and NOT just leaving a message on a pre-published mailbox frequency. Therefore, those trying to COMMUNICATE naturally avoid mixing with those using other modes since they want to operate where they can be understood. The Email robots have no need to do this, due the pre-published frequencies of the Email robots, so they freely intermix with other modes. They have more than one chance to dominate one of the pre-published scanned frequencies to leave Email messages, and they clearly do in practice, or there would not be so many filed comments on RM-11306 about their disruptive practices.

The biggest problem with allowing automatically controlled digital stations of the same emitted bandwidth as phone stations to share the same space is that it has been the practice to scatter the pre-published frequencies of the Email robots all over an entire segment of the band, and then have the automatically controlled stations scan all of those frequencies for a station calling itself, with the result that once the ARRL-defined "semi-automatic" station is able to "punch through" communications already on the frequency (by virtue of its greater energy density and

persistence), there are now TWO powerful digital stations on the frequency, locked in an automatic "dance" with each other, both controlled by software, with no chance for the human operators on the frequency to continue communicating. Because the frequencies of the Email robots are scattered all over any segment where they are allowed to operate, the potential for conflict with COMMUNICATIONS is assured, and, contrary to claims by the ARRL, HAS NEVER "WORKED REASONABLY WELL" (as claimed by the ARRL, without presenting any justification), and DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE WORKABLE (except for ARRL or Winlink's benefit). The phone operator has no way to know where an automatically controlled digital station will suddenly appear, so he has no way to avoid the Email robot frequency, even if he wanted to do that. Part 97.221, Subpart C, serves to keep all wideband automatically controlled digital stations out of the space where phone operates and must be retained at all costs! Automatically controlled digital station use constitutes less than one percent of all amateur radio HF activities, and should not be allowed to disrupt COMMUNICATIONS by the ninety-nine percent of radio amateurs that have no interest at all in radio Email.

Removing regulations that have long served to keep a modicum of fairness and order in the radio amateur bands, and

replace them with "voluntary" bandplans (presumably, ARRL "bandplans"), WOULD DEPRIVE THE RADIO AMATEUR OF HIS RIGHT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND DUE PROCESS and would allow a small, already secretly-acting, cadre of radio amateurs on the ARRL Executive Committee to dictate where and how all other radio amateurs are allowed to practice their hobby and MUST NEVER BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN.

In "congratulating" radio amateurs for their large number of filed comments, ARRL neglects to point out that, for one or more reasons, approximately 83% of all commenters reject the principles on which ARRL filed RM-11306 and do not wish to see the radio amateur frequencies changed by new rules from mainly being used for traditional communications between persons to mainly being used for ARRL/Winlink Email "messaging" robots.

Respectfully,

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Dissenting member of the ARRL Ad Hoc HF Digital Committee referenced in RM-11306